

CALL OUT

A STUDY OF THE PSALMS

THE RENT

Kevin Hart is easily one of the most famous comedians of all time. Scan the QR code for a 2-minute video where he learned from where his rent truly comes.



Kevin's mom knew the value of God's Word—that it's was a lot more than rent money. Many of us value the Bible. We might even agree that God wrote the Bible. However, many of us, like Kevin, fail to crack it open. We leave the lid of the treasure box closed while at the same time declaring that riches lie within.

For those of you Bible trivia whiz kids, you may know that Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the whole Bible (176 verses). It's also an acrostic—a poetic style that uses each letter of the Hebrew alphabet as the starting letter for each verse. There are 22 sections with multiple verses for each letter (most Bible have the Hebrew letter of the acrostic printed indicating each section).

Today, we'll be looking at the *beth* (think the letter "B") section. Each verse 9–16 begin with the Hebrew letter *beth*. Although Psalm 119 has many memorable verses, this section clearly defines how God's Word can establish our priorities.

Like exercise, purity is an investment in the future.

PSALM 119:9–16

- ⁹How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
- ¹⁰With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from your commandments!
- ¹¹I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.
- ¹²Blessed are you, O LORD;
teach me your statutes!
- ¹³With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.
- ¹⁴In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.
- ¹⁵I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways.
- ¹⁶I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

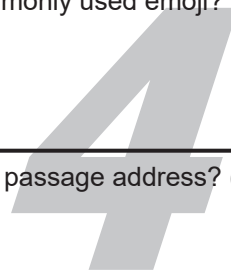
"I believe what I believe is what makes me who I am. No, I did not make it, no it is making me It is the very truth of God and not the invention of any man."

Although the Apostles' Creed is not considered authoritative Scripture, it's been a standard summary of Christian belief for centuries. As God's Word defines our beliefs, we understand it changes us and makes us. Scan the QR code to sing along to this great church confession.



DISCUSSION

What is your favorite/most commonly used emoji?



1. What person/need does this passage address? (9)

2. ID some verbs that indicate a healthy response to God's Word. (9-16) (Example: "guarding it," "not wander from")

3. How does God's Word help a person pursue purity? (9)

4. What specific actions indicate the psalmist's attitude and commitment to God's Word? (14-16)

5. How can you love the Lord and live according to his Word?

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Although we may want to be in God's Word more, sometimes we don't know where to start (this study is hopefully helping). If you need help to begin reading for yourself, talk to your Coach.

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STUDY NOTES

CORRECTION

Sir Edmund Hillary was the very first man to step foot on the summit of Mt. Everest in 1953. Accomplishing this great feat without modern climbing gear, Sir Edmund quickly became one of the most famous people in the world. Sir Edmund climbed ten other Himalayan peaks and was also became the first person to ever stand on both the North and South poles and Everest's summit. Sir Edmund Hillary was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century. In 1992, his portrait made it to the New Zealand five-dollar bill.

On a trip back to the Himalayas, Sir Edmund was asked to take a photo with a group of tourists. They handed him an ice pick for the photo. A passer-by approached Sir Edmund informing him that he was holding ice pick incorrectly. He thanked the man and allowed him to adjust the pick in his hands and the photograph was taken.

This true story provides an incredible lesson in humility. He could have said, "Do you know who I am? Do you know what I've done?" I doubt there was anything the young climber could have taught Sir Edmund about ice picks. However, instead of humbling the intruder, Sir Edmund took the correction and went on with his day.

Do we have the same humility to learn and receive correction? I've often heard "humility" defined as "a right perspective about who I am in light of who God is." Today's passage helps us shape that perspective. When we correctly see ourselves in light of God it changes everything about us—including our priorities.

GOD'S WORD CAN ESTABLISH PRIORITIES

Verse 9 opens with a question, "**How can a young man keep his way pure?**" Purity isn't really a prized commodity in today's world. Saying "no" to all the "fun" things doesn't really appeal to a world that's repeatedly been told "Follow your heart." However, when you consider the ever climbing stats on anxiety, depression, and suicide attempts, something about following our hearts isn't working.

Like exercise, purity is an investment in the future. It's saying "no" to something now because a greater benefit exists later. Although it isn't the highest ambition of most people, it should be. As my late pastor would often say, "Life just goes better when you do it God's way." So how do we pursue purity? The psalmist tells us, "**By guarding it according to your word.**"

The world's greatest climber took advice from a nobody about holding climbing equipment. Will you take advice about how to live your life from the God that created you, the world, and everything in it? So, what advice do we see? In verse 9 alone, we see that one of our top priorities must be guarding our personal purity by living according to God's Word. That means our heart cannot be our source of truth and fulfillment—only God's Word gets to ultimately define how we live. This begs the question, "Is God a cosmic kill-joy?" Is he out to ruin my fun? The psalmist clearly doesn't think so.

As we keep reading, the psalmist declares, "**I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**" Does he then go on to lament how boring his life is? No! What we see as a theme throughout Scripture is that as we learn to obey the Lord, we begin to love obeying the Lord. I may not love purity, but as I experience the benefits of purity (especially as I see the negative consequences of others around me), I love its effect on my life.

Look at the passion and excitement in the psalmist's words: **Blessed are you, O Lord...I delight as much as in all riches... fix my eyes on your ways... I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.** These are not the words of a person who hates their life. This is the kind of person that's found the key to life.

CALL OUT TO GOD BECAUSE OF HIS WORD

Do you believe that God is out to ruin your fun or do you think he wants your absolute greatest good? As we seek to align our lives and our priorities to God's Word, we learn to love God, his Word, and purity more and more. Like bumpers in bowling, God's Word provides guard rails on our lives so that we don't end up in the gutter.

Some of you reading this may not be convinced that God's Word has the power that we've described. Keep reading, learning, and applying it and I'm convinced you will see God work in undeniable ways. You may not see the full extent of God's power in Scripture until you surrender your life to Christ, but that doesn't mean you can't experience the truth of his wisdom.

Others reading this might have given a hearty "Amen" to what we've said about God's Word. But, do you live like it? Is your Bible dusty, or is it worn out from overuse? Do you spend more time in your coach's playbook or God's playbook? The Creator of the universe wrote you a love letter. Don't let a day go by without reading it.